

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10451

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TINDEMANS), EEC, BE, US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS; DISCUSSION
TOPICS: THE PLACE OF THE EC IN WORLD SUMMIT
MEETINGS

REF: BRUSSELS 10322

1. TINDEMANS AND THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ARE VITALLY
INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING THE ROLE AND VOICE OF THE EC
IN WORLD COUNCILS, AND THIS SUBJECT WILL SURELY BE RAISED
BY THE PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON.

2. THERE ARE THREE MOTIVATING DRIVES BEHIND THIS INTEREST.

(A) AS A SMALL COUNTRY, BELGIUM CANNOT REALISTICALLY
EXPECT TO HAVE ITS VIEWS SOLICITED AND ITS VOICE HEARD
IN THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL COUNCILS ON ALL ISSUES OF
INTEREST TO IT. THEREFORE, BELGIUM HAS UNDERTAKEN TO
PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, COUNTING ON
EC TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ITS VIEWS IN DEVELOPING EC
POLICIES TO ADVOCATE IN LARGER FORA. THUS BELGIUM HAS
THE GREATEST INTEREST IN HAVING AN EC PRESENCE AT THE
SUMMIT.

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(B) THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (AND TINDEMANS PERSONALLY)
SEEKS WAYS TO INCREASE THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNITY
OF EUROPE, BOTH BY STRENGTHENING EC INSTITUTIONS AND
STRIVING FOR AGREED EC POLICIES. BY PRESSING TO HAVE THE
EC SPEAK FOR THE NINE IN WORLD FORA, BELGIUM IS LABORING
TOWARD THE GOAL OF UNITED EUROPE.

(C) BELGIUM AND OTHER SMALL EC COUNTRIES SPECIFICALLY
OBJECT TO THE LARGER EC MEMBERS MEETING WITH NON-EC
GOVERNMENTS AS SOVEREIGN STATES TO DISCUSS MATTERS CLEARLY
WITHIN EC COMPETENCE (E.G. TRADE) WITHOUT AN EC
REPRESENTATIVE AT THE TABLE.

3. TINDEMANS MAY SOLICIT THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIVE SUPPORT
FOR A RECOGNIZED PLACE FOR THE EC IN WORLD FORA AND FOR A
CONTINUED WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE USG TO INVITE
THE EC, SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE EC'S NINE MEMBER
STATES, TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHICH THE USG HAS A
ROLE IN ORGANIZING. TINDEMANS IS, OF COURSE, WELL AWARE
THAT THE U.S. HAS WORLD RESPONSIBILITIES TRANSCENDING EC
INTERESTS. AND HE IS PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE LACK OF
INTERNAL EC COHESION, BUT HE WILL ARGUE THAT THE LONG-TERM
U.S. INTEREST IS IN PROMOTING A STRONGER AND MORE
INTEGRATED EC. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO EXPRESS HIS
APPRECIATION FOR U.S. WILLINGNESS BEFORE THE LAST TWO
WORLD SUMMITS TO HAVE THE EC REPRESENTED (WHICH LEFT THE
DECISION UP TO THE EC ITSELF) AND MAY SUGGEST THAT THE
U.S. PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE NEXT TIME. CHAMBERS

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